

Thomas G. Stemberg



Staples Chairman, Tom Stemberg, pioneered the office superstore industry when he co-founded the company and opened the first Staples store in 1986. Mr. Stemberg has propelled Staples' business growth through a store expansion program, a delivered office products business, a growing international presence and an award-winning e-commerce operation. Staples today is an \$11.6 billion company with an objective to meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of small business customers by providing fast, efficient, convenient, low cost products and services while creating growth vehicles for the future.

He served as chief executive officer for 16 years and today, as Chairman, Mr. Stemberg focuses on strategic and entrepreneurial projects. Fresh out of Harvard College and Harvard Business School (as a George F. Baker Scholar), Mr. Stemberg joined Jewel's Star Market stores corporate training program in 1973, where he rose to vice president of sales and merchandising by 1980. He then moved on to Connecticut-based First National Supermarkets, where he held various senior management positions. Eventually, he was promoted to president of the company's Edwards-Finast division, where the formula was to cut costs, buy in volume and slash prices.

Mr. Stemberg serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Staples since February 1988 and is an executive officer of Staples with the title of Chairman since February 2002. Mr. Stemberg was Chief Executive Officer of Staples from January 1986 to February 2002. Mr. Stemberg is also a Director of CarMax, Inc., PETsMART, Inc., Polycor, Inc. and The NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc.

Active in his community, Mr. Stemberg is a trustee of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and maintains close ties to his alma mater, Harvard University, where he serves on the

Overseers Visiting Committee to the Harvard Business School, is a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) Financial Aid Task Force and is a co-chairman of Friends of Harvard Basketball.